

Crime must be reduced to assure Stockton's future prosperity

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Craig Sanders/The Record

Mayor Ed Chavez assesses the State of the City on Wednesday at Stockton Arena.

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March 04, 2007 6:00 AM

Stockton Mayor Ed Chavez has declared crime the city's Public Enemy No. 1.

Taking a good news-bad news approach in his State of the City Speech on Wednesday, Chavez looked back at 2006 successes, gazed ahead to some promising possibilities and bluntly challenged everyone to help solve the city's biggest problem: crime.

He asked Stockton residents and officials to "take ownership" of the public safety issue.

Rather than offering up some bold vision or grand plan, the former police chief said reducing crime will require hard work.

He then outlined measures - old and new, large and small - that could help reclaim troubled neighborhoods.

He also referred to successful programs in Sacramento, Fresno and San Jose and asked the 1,000 in attendance to stand with him in trying to transform Stockton into a city of "hope and charity."

He concluded his 42-minute speech with firm determination:

"I will not bankrupt this city in an attempt to achieve some perceived legacy. Nor will I tie the hands of future councils to fiscally manage this city."

While his proposals acknowledged a harsh reality, only time and genuine commitment will determine if they can truly change the reality - much less the perception - of Stockton as an unsafe place to live.

The actual state of the city - with significant improvements downtown, a healthy commercial real estate market, job growth at the Port of Stockton, a more accessible approach to city government and ambitious plans for population growth - remains precarious.

Not much else that Chavez talked about will matter if the crime rate is not reduced significantly.

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danielh March 05, 2007 03:26 AM
 Mayor Chavez: Vice Versa. Prosperity would reduce crime.

robertpri March 04, 2007 11:28 AM
 We read about the mayor's speech, his focus on crime, and how he "...outlined measures...old and new...reclaim troubled neighborhoods." This is wonderful news and a high point of numerous articles. Great. When do we read the details of those "measures"? The Record is not doing a very good job on the details. What are those plans to reduce crime? What measures? Where are the results of his "Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Prevention"?

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